UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1995/46/Add.1
8 February 1995

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-first session
Item 11 of the provisional agenda

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
Introduction	1 - 3	2
I. Activities in the field of Human Rights January-December 1994	4 - 26	2
II. Activities specifically related to indigenous people	27 - 32	7
III. Activities of United Nations Information Centres and Services and Offices of the United Nations	33 - 87	7
A. United Nations Information Service at Geneva	33 - 44	7
B. United Nations information centres and services worldwide	45 - 81	9
C. Offices of the United Nations	82 - 87	18

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Introduction

1. As the Secretariat department that has primary responsibility for information programmes and activities in the United Nations, the Department of Public Information (DPI) coordinates and initiates projects and activities for the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights. The Department also serves as a secretariat to the Joint United Nations Information Committee, where it promotes system-wide information activities in the field of human rights. By employing a multi-media approach, DPI facilitates the effective coverage of United Nations human rights activities and ensures the worldwide distribution of relevant information materials on human rights.

2. During 1994 this work focused on publicizing United Nations human rights activities, including those of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commission on Human Rights and related activities undertaken by peace-keeping operations. Public information activities were also developed as follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 14-25 June 1993) and the 1993 International Year of the World's Indigenous People.

3. In the 1994-1995 programme budget, the Department continues to have a mandate under the thematic heading of human rights. It also continues to have a mandate for other programmes in such related areas as economic and social development and rights of specific groups, and for other major issues including the question of Palestine, self-determination, decolonization and the advancement of women. The Department's related activities are regularly reported to the General Assembly and to other intergovernmental bodies under each specific area or issue.

I. ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS JANUARY-DECEMBER 1994

4. The multi-media approach of the Department in the field of human rights includes: production of pamphlets, backgrounders, booklets, feature articles and brochures; films, radio and television programmes, photos and exhibits; undertaking press coverage of all intergovernmental meetings on human rights; holding of press conferences and briefings; initiating contacts with the media; answering public inquiries; holding special events and other activities relating to Human Rights Day and related observances; collaborating with non-governmental organizations; utilizing the resources of the 67 United Nations information centres and services; and coordinating inter-agency promotional activities. It should be noted that most of these projects are not funded under the programme budget thematic heading of human rights mentioned in paragraph 2 above, but under other sections of the programme budget. In the 1994-1995 programme budget, some US$ 250,000 have been allocated for public information promotional activities on human rights.

5. During 1994 activities undertaken also included production of official and local language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; reprints and new language production of other human rights instruments and continued acquisition of documentation and development of reference services on human rights at the libraries of the United Nations information centres and services.

6. In initiating activities for the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights in 1994, the Department is building on the momentum generated in the previous biennium to promote the World Conference on Human Rights and the International Year of the World's Indigenous People. Under separate areas of the budget, DPI is also carrying out sizeable information programmes on economic and social issues in support of major conferences in 1995 such as the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-12 March), the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Cairo, 29 April-10 May) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4-15 September).

7. As all of these conferences will address issues closely related to human rights, such as the reduction of poverty and unemployment, strengthening of criminal justice standards and the enhancement of women's rights, the related information programmes also emphasize this connection. Activities include production of press kits and other print information material; briefings and seminars for NGOs, media, academics and others; production of radio and television documentaries and special activities undertaken at the national and regional levels by the United Nations information centres and services. In advance of the World Social Summit, for example, DPI has produced articles on, among other things, "Human rights and social development", "The job crisis", "Attacking poverty", "Health: cornerstone of social development" and "Shelter, employment and the urban poor".

8. In addition, the regular calendar of international days, including Human Rights Day (10 December), International Women's Day (8 March), International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March) and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October), is utilized to generate interest in United Nations work related to human rights. In this, the outreach activities undertaken by the UNICs and UNISs can have a significant impact (see section II).

9. Human Rights Day, 10 December 1994, was an opportunity for the Department and its worldwide network of information centres and services to promote understanding of the Organization's work in this field and build support for it. Emphasis was given to specific human rights issues, including those reflected in the upcoming United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, both beginning in 1995. Activities also highlighted areas such as the right to development, women's rights, children's rights and economic and social rights, as well as the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

10. In observance of Human Rights Day 1994 at Headquarters, DPI organized a panel discussion in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights to celebrate the upcoming United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education. Featuring the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. José Ayala Lasso, and distinguished government and NGO representatives, the panel was moderated by Charlayne Hunter-Gault, the national correspondent for the United States television news programme, "The Macneil/Lehrer Newshour". The discussion reviewed key issues related to human rights education and was videotaped by DPI for use by the news media, including the PBS television programme "Rights and Wrongs". In advance of the Day, DPI distributed globally the Human Rights Day message of the Secretary-General.

11. For the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, DPI organized an outdoor ceremony in the General Assembly Visitors Plaza. The event was sponsored by DPI, the Permanent Mission of France and the International Movement ATD Fourth World. Participants included Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Ambassador Juan Somavia, Permanent Representative of Chile, Mr. Henryk Sokalski, Coordinator of the International Year of the Family, and Mr. Ebrima Jobarteh, Deputy Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women. The audience included members of delegations, NGOs, United Nations officials, and 300 representatives of poor families from 45 countries. Media coverage of the even included Univision, France 2 TV, three photographers and two video crews from ATD and the Sony Company.

12. The Department's 30-minute documentary film on human rights entitled "New Horizons for Human Rights", produced in 1991, gives a different perspective of human rights issues arising out of situations such as environmental disaster, AIDS and terrorism. It continues to be distributed globally in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

13. DPI's three-minute "UN in Action" television news feature programmes, produced on a weekly basis, are distributed to television networks and stations around the world in a variety of languages. CNN's "World Report" regularly features "UN in Action" and is seen in over 90 countries. In 1994 programmes covered, among other things, the following subjects relating to human rights: "Africa mission underlines role of new UN Human Rights Commissioner", "Empowering Guatemala's indigenous women", "Gypsies struggle to survive in war-torn Bosnia", "Prospects improve for Georgia's displaced people", "Political asylum becomes more difficult as world refugee tide swells", "Indigenous Guatemalans displaced by civil conflict helped by UN", "UN group monitors South Africa's transition to democracy" and "The Ifuagos of northern Philippines benefit from UNICEF's child survival and development programme".

14. The Department's "World Chronicle" television programme features news interviews with key figures from the United Nations and Member States on a variety of global issues including human rights. In 1994, the High Commissioner for Human Rights was interviewed, and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia was the subject of another programme.

15. A series of educational videos and study guides has been produced by DPI, including one entitled "Teaching about Human Rights: Rights of the Child", produced in 1991. Designed for use by upper primary and secondary school students, the teaching guide and video, focusing primarily on the rights of the child, are currently available as sales items in English, French and Spanish. Classroom examples and readings on various human rights issues are included in the study guide, which can be freely adapted and copied. In this way, educational information can be made available in a user-friendly format at minimal cost.

16. The Department's publications, the UN Chronicle and the Yearbook of the United Nations, continued their regular coverage of human rights issues, including the work of the Commission on Human Rights, the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations bodies. In its March issue, the UN Chronicle carried the following human rights-related articles: "Yugoslav crisis - A

terrible war rages on", "New UN High Commissioner will champion rights worldwide", "New declaration aims to stop violence against women" and "Racism: Third Decade proclaimed".

17. The UN Chronicle's June issue contained articles as follows: "Haiti - Civilian human rights observers return", "Human rights - Commission confronts new realities", "High Commissioner for Human Rights: the moral voice of humanity" and "Status of women - Equal pay, urban women's problems discussed by Commission".

18. DPI frequently covered human rights issues in its weekly briefings at Headquarters for non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Ten briefings relating to human rights were held in 1994, each attracting between 100 and 200 participants representing the 1,200 NGOs worldwide that are associated directly with the Department.

19. The Department's Public Inquiries Unit and the focal points on human rights and indigenous people in the Department's Promotion and Public Services Division responded to numerous requests daily for human rights information and publications. From 1 January through 30 November 1994, the Department's Dissemination Unit distributed 98 titles of DPI publications on human rights in the six official languages (plus some others). Electronic distribution of 295 different human rights items, including press releases, backgrounders, statements by the Secretary-General and United Nations documents reached 8,384 distribution points.

20. During this same period, DPI's Visitor's Service at Headquarters arranged for 60 briefings for visitors on human rights issues (including racial discrimination, women and apartheid as well as human rights in general) for a total of 2,128 visitors and arranged for special film/video screenings for other visitors. In addition, information on United Nations work in the field of human rights was given to the 359,670 visitors to United Nations Headquarters in 1994.

21. The Department regularly included information pertaining to human rights and related issues as part of its weekly radio programmes in official and non-official languages. Including multiple language versions, more than 284 items on human rights issues were produced from January through November 1994. Human rights and related issues were also included in the Department's current affairs radio programmes, such as "Perspective", a 15-minute weekly documentary programme which is broadcast by some 350 radio stations worldwide.

22. During the period, DPI continued to give full press, radio and television coverage to the activities of the Organization concerning human rights, including the proceedings of all United Nations intergovernmental bodies dealing with human rights, such as the Commission on Human Rights and its various committees and working groups, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee against Torture, the work of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special rapporteurs on human rights questions. From January through November 1994, the Department issued 475 press releases in English and 450 in French on human rights issues.

23. At Headquarters, the Department assisted in arranging press conferences with the Secretary-General's Special Representative on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq, and the expert appointed to undertake a study on children in armed conflicts.

24. The International Year of the Family (1994) provided another channel for public information activities in the field of human rights. A press kit on the International Year was reprinted in early 1994 in English, French and Spanish, containing background material on human rights and the role of the family in this regard. In co-production with TVE London, a 30-minute video "Honey I'm Home", featuring the problems of families under stress and related human rights issues, was produced and distributed.

25. The appointment by the Secretary-General of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was publicized by the Department both in print and audio-visual materials. The activities of the High Commissioner received wide coverage in the Department's press releases and radio programmes. In 1994, 24 radio programmes and 31 press releases were devoted to activities of the High Commissioner. In June 1994, the Department dispatched a TV producer and a local camera team to accompany the High Commissioner for Human Rights during his stay in Rwanda. A "UN in Action" television programme (see para. 13) was produced and distributed for use by broadcasting organizations in more than 60 countries. Additional footage on the work of the High Commissioner was produced for other TV productions of the Department. Other activities at Headquarters included the organization of two press conferences and an interview with the Washington Post with the High Commissioner.

26. Publications produced or initiated by DPI in 1994 included:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (reprint - DPI/15) English, Spanish;

Declaration on the Right to Development (reprint - DPI/918) English, French and Spanish;

International Bill of Human Rights (DPI/925/Rev.1) Russian, Chinese and Arabic;

Seeds of a New Partnership: Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations (book DPI/1434) English and Spanish;

24-hour Fax "Hot Line" for Reporting Human Rights Violations (background note DPI/1550HR) all six official languages;

Human Rights and Culture (feature art. DPI/1551HR) all six official languages;

United Nations Human Rights Wall Chart (DPI/1549HR) designed to illustrate United Nations human rights mechanisms and their relationships for use by schools and NGOs, the chart will be produced in all six official languages;

International Decade 1995-2004 (Indigenous People) (background art. DPI/1608HR) English, Spanish

II. ACTIVITIES SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

27. Although some activities relating to indigenous people have been described in the previous section, a more detailed review of these undertakings follows. The Department published a commemorative issue of the newsletter for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (DPI/1579) of the Centre for Human Rights. Using DPI's signature design and typeface for indigenous people, the newsletter was produced in early December for the launch of the Decade in the General Assembly.

28. At the request of indigenous groups, the Centre for Human Rights and the Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, DPI has produced a book, Seeds of a New Partnership (listed above), to commemorate the International Year and to publicize the proclamation of the Decade. It includes excerpts from the speeches made by indigenous people at the General Assembly ceremony launching the year on 10 December 1992, and a description of the work of the United Nations system to improve the lives of indigenous people.

29. DPI was represented at the Technical Meeting preceding the twelfth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, which took place in Geneva from 25-29 July 1994. Seeds of a New Partnership was distributed in English at that session.

30. DPI provided press and video coverage of the Working Group's 1994 session and provided radio coverage in English and Spanish. Interviews were conducted in various languages for future radio programmes on the Decade. When adopted by the General Assembly, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People will be published in all official languages.

31. "Indigenous People - Towards a New Partnership", a 15-minute English video describing the lives of indigenous people in the Amazon and in Norway, was also made available in French, Spanish and Norwegian in 1994.

32. In addition to the above, the Department's 67 information centres and services and the United Nations Offices organized numerous activities to promote the Year. (See the following section for a review of some of these activities.)

III. ACTIVITIES OF UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRES AND SERVICES AND OFFICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

A. United Nations Information Service at Geneva

33. Because of its proximity to the Centre for Human Rights, UNIS Geneva has a special role to play in the promotion of the work of the United Nations concerning human rights, including that of the High Commissioner. From January through December 1994, UNIS Geneva continued to take special

responsibility to cover, through print, radio and audio-visual programmes, activities undertaken by specialized bodies meeting in Geneva and charged with promoting and protecting human rights worldwide.

34. Activities also included placement of opinion-editorial articles and the organization of 24 human rights-related press conferences and a number of media interviews on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies. Those interviews were arranged with a variety of media organizations, including the BBC World Service (radio), CNN, the Tribune de Genève and other Geneva-based newspapers, ABC Radio and others.

35. During the period, UNIS produced 882 press releases relating to human rights (477 English, 405 French) and distributed them to the media and other target audiences. It also issued 24 NGO Bulletins and held 11 NGO briefings devoted to human rights issues.

36. In 1994, the Visitors Service organized more than 15 briefings on human rights issues, disseminated a booklet on human rights education to school groups and endeavoured to increase United Nations teaching in schools by preparing and disseminating information kits on human rights for educational institutions.

37. Also during the reporting period, the Electronic Media Unit of UNIS produced 114 radio reports, programmes and audio cuts on human rights and 27 television items, all for worldwide distribution. Television and radio items in 1994 covered, among other things, the fiftieth session of the Commission on Human Rights, all human rights treaty bodies as well as press conferences given by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and government and State leaders. UNTV also produced coverage and footage on the above for World Television News, Reuters Television, CNN, Swiss Television and others. In addition, there were 152 cinema screenings on human rights subjects and 23 photo opportunities during this period.

38. UNIS also prepared the following special press feature papers in 1994: "Antidote to the poison of future generations: United Nations action against racism and racial discrimination"; "Urgent UN measures can abate the Rwanda killing" (by the High Commissioner, published in the International Herald Tribune, 24 May 1994); and "Human Rights Commission to discuss human rights situation in Rwanda during special session".

39. For Human Rights Day 1994, UNIS Geneva organized a press conference with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and made press kits available. The first message ever of the High Commissioner on the occasion of Human Rights Day was translated into English by UNIS Geneva and, together with the message of the Secretary-General, was distributed to the press corps, Permanent Missions, NGOs and the general public. An exhibition of drawings and paintings depicting all the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was mounted in the "Salle des Pas Perdus" of the Palais des Nations, and the DPI film "New Horizons for Human Rights" was screened. Posters on human rights issues were displayed at the entrance to the cafeteria and cinema in the Palais des Nations, and documentation on different human rights issues was made available to the press corps, NGOs and the public.

40. In addition to Human Rights Day, special events were organized in connection with several other related observances. For International Women's Day, UNIS organized a screening of special films on the equality of women. Exhibits of the work of women artists and of images of women around the world were also on display elsewhere in the Palais des Nations.

41. For the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, UNIS organized, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, a round table discussion on the theme "The Third United Nations Decade against Racism: The challenge of combating racial discrimination and related intolerance in a democratic society, developing specific suggestions". The round table was moderated by Mr. Ibrahima Fall, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.

42. Observed on 16 May at Geneva, the International Day of Families was marked by a meeting organized by UNIS and the Centre for Human Rights on the theme "The family, poverty and human rights". It was addressed by Mr. Fall, Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of the World Health Organization, Mr. Philip Alston, Chair of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and NGO representatives.

43. In observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, UNIS organized a ceremony involving Mr. Fall and a number of individuals from various parts of Switzerland supported by the International Movement ATD Fourth World. The ceremony was accompanied by an exhibition of paintings by children on the theme of poverty.

44. For the thirty-second session of the Graduate Study Programme, UNIS organized programmes for 64 students from 41 countries. The three-week session focused on United Nations action in the field of human rights and included working groups on development, human rights, environment and humanitarian affairs.

B. United Nations information centres and services worldwide

45. During 1994, the Department's network of 67 United Nations information centres (UNICs) and services (UNISs) played a significant role in furthering the objectives of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and greatly expanded their outreach activities to media, NGOs, academics and others. Special information activities were organized to promote Human Rights Day and other human rights-related observances.

46. In 1994 the centres and services continued to disseminate relevant materials from Headquarters such as press kits, background notes, press releases and official documents, and to translate them into local languages, as appropriate. They also organized or assisted with events, meetings, public gatherings and briefings; participated in seminars, panels and lectures for educational and other institutions; and gave interviews to the media.

47. The following section highlights the main activities undertaken by selected centres and services from January through December 1994. In the interest of brevity, this review is not exhaustive; rather it is intended to illustrate the variety of activities undertaken and results achieved.

Accra

48. During the year, UNIC maintained close working contact with various local groups involved in the promotion of human rights, providing relevant information to government officials, NGOs, judicial and educational institutions and the media on a regular basis. On 9 December, the Centre organized a press conference chaired jointly by the UNIC Director, a member of Parliament and a representative of the United Nations. The Director presented an overview of the work of the Organization and its role in the promotion of human rights around the world, including the launch of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education. The Secretary-General's message was read to the gathering and a video, "United Nations, Indigenous People - Towards a New Partnership", was screened prior to the event. On 9 December the Secretary-General's message was issued as a press release and distributed widely.

Algiers

49. The Centre, in cooperation with Algerian national TV, aired spot announcements during the week from 7-12 December on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In collaboration with l'Institut universitaire de droit, the Centre organized an exhibition of United Nations human rights documents from 5-10 December. In addition, the NGO l'Observatoire des droits de l'homme organized with l'Ecole nationale d'administration a discussion on the theme "La protection internationale des droits de l'homme".

Asunción

50. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNICEF sponsored the launch of the book Forty Minutes with Human Rights, issued by the Ministry of Education. The book will be utilized as a teaching handbook. The Secretary-General's message was read during this event. NGOs, independent organizations and the United Nations office organized several events from 3-11 December to commemorate Human Rights Day. Among them were a full day-long programme, including a radio programme; the launch of the newspaper El Espejo and a concert organized by the Humanist Movement; a workshop for primary-level supervisors on "Human rights as the central axis of a democratic education", sponsored by the Ministry of Education; and a tribute to the victims of assassinations and involuntary disappearances, organized by human rights NGOs and independent organizations. The Centre prepared and distributed several press releases, and human rights information materials were distributed to NGOs in the capital and elsewhere in the country.

Athens

51. At a special event organized by the United Nations Association of Greece on 8 December, the President of Cyprus spoke on the theme "Securing human rights: an indispensable condition for peaceful co-existence". The NGOs Citizens Movement against Racism and Human Rights Foundation organized panel discussions on human rights issues and on "Human rights and Albania". In cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Human Rights Foundation also organized a discussion on "Family and children's rights in the

context of modern social changes" on 22 December. The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Youth announced a three-year campaign against racism and ultra-nationalism. UNIC also cooperated with Greek authorities and local NGOs to promote the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education.

Beirut

52. The message of the Secretary-General was widely distributed by the Centre in Arabic and was carried by almost all print media, television and radio stations. The Centre's national officer briefed students of the Lebanese-American University about human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was distributed to the audience. In support of a lecture given by the head of the Lebanese Association on Human Rights, UNIC distributed 500 Arabic copies of the DPI backgrounder "Questions & Answers on Human Rights" and arranged for the screening of the film "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" by Tele-Liban.

Brazzaville

53. UNIC Brazzaville produced an information note entitled "Instruments internationaux de protection et de promotion des droits de l'homme" and distributed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Secretary-General's message was distributed to government departments, embassies, NGOs, academic institutions and United Nations agencies. On 9 December, the Centre organized a round table with the Minister of Democratic Culture and Human Rights, journalists and human rights NGOs. The discussion focused on the application of human rights in the Congo and the world and was attended by 150 people. Before the event, three United Nations videos on human rights were screened. The Centre also arranged, with the participation of the United Nations Association of the Congo, an exhibition of posters, photos and other materials to illustrate United Nations activities on human rights around the world.

Brussels

54. Many universities and NGOs in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands organized special Human Rights Day events. UNIC Brussels provided logistical and information support for the events which included the following programmes: "Economic, social and cultural rights: international instruments", organized by the Belgian Inter-University Centre; "European Conference on Monitoring Children's Rights", organized from 11-14 December by the Children's Rights Centre of the University of Ghent; "Human Rights and the Bretton Woods institutions", organized by the research institute Gresea and NGOs; and a special human rights award ceremony organized by the Dutch Human Rights League.

55. The Secretary-General's message was issued as a press release to 100 media outlets. One thousand copies of the International Bill of Human Rights and 500 copies of the Convention on the Rights of the Child were distributed and several dailies featured Human Rights Day articles. On 10 February 1994, the officer-in-charge was interviewed for the bulletin of Amnesty International of Belgium, on United Nations human rights activities

and the role of NGOs. UNIC Brussels also completed the Dutch version of the International Bill of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child for distribution in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Bucharest

56. Early in 1994, UNIC provided the Romanian Association for Humanitarian Law with 86 United Nations conventions, declarations and resolutions on human rights, which were translated into Romanian and published by the Association as Volume II of The Human Rights in the United Nations System. On 7-8 March, the Romanian Association for Human Rights organized a seminar on the rights of national minorities, which was attended by representatives of national political parties and NGOs. For Human Rights Day 1994, an official ceremony was organized jointly with the Romanian Association for Humanitarian Law and the Ministry of the Interior. Four hundred and fifty persons attended the meeting which was addressed by the Minister, representatives of NGOs and university professors. The Director read the Secretary-General's message. The event was well covered by the three television stations, two radio stations and the print media. Other ceremonies were organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (IRDO) in Bucharest, and by NGOs and clubs countrywide. The Minister of Justice addressed the IRDO meeting and the Secretary-General's message was read. In addition, an interview with a senior staff member of the Centre on Human Rights on human rights activities in the field was aired on 9 December.

Buenos Aires

57. The Centre organized a round table on racial discrimination in connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, as an advance event to the proposed United Nations Year for Tolerance. Representatives of indigenous people, ethnic groups, migrant workers and the Armenian and Jewish communities, along with an audience of 86 people, participated in the event. On 4 December, UNIC sponsored the "Second Youth Encounter for Peace", in cooperation with the Jewish Youth Organization and six other youth organizations in Buenos Aires. The event featured several round tables, the lighting of a Torch for Peace, and an open air concert. The local NGO Permanent Assembly for Human Rights sponsored UNIC's participation in a seminar on violence against adolescents practised by minority institutions. A Human Rights Day ceremony was held on the UNIC premises and the Centre distributed information materials. The Secretary-General's message was read and distributed to the media and other institutions. From 26-30 December, the Centre organized the first Model United Nations in the Spanish language for 250 students from 45 schools. Among the human rights issues debated were "The situation of human rights in Rwanda" and "Human rights violations among the indigenous people of the world". During the year, the Director also participated in a TV programme on human rights and the elderly.

Cairo

58. The Secretary-General's message was translated into Arabic, read and distributed to Egyptian media and other institutions.

Copenhagen

59. A 12-page backgrounder on Human Rights Day, based on material received from Headquarters, was issued as part of UN Facts prepared by the Centre in four Nordic languages. The Centre has also completed the translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into Finnish and Swedish.

Dakar

60. To mark Human Rights Day, the Centre organized a 6-km cross-country race through the streets of the Senegalese capital. Seven hundred people took part. Launched by the Minister of State and heralded by much media attention, the event attracted participation by a cross-section of society including schoolchildren, diplomats, political leaders, soldiers and officers of the Senegalese army, who wore T-shirts provided by UNIC imprinted with the logo of the fiftieth anniversary and "We the people of the United Nations...". The Secretary-General's message was read by the Director, distributed to all participants, and later broadcast on national radio and television. In addition, the Centre's weekly 30-minute radio programme on 10 December was devoted to human rights.

Islamabad

61. In separate Human Rights Day messages, the President, Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition called for protecting and promoting basic human rights. UNIC Islamabad distributed information materials to governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the media. The Secretary-General's message was distributed widely and read at a special function organized by the Pakistan National Centre. UNIC Islamabad provided information for a special function organized by the Human Rights Cell of the Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs and for four other commemorative functions held in Pakistan's four provinces. Other events included a "Walk for Human Rights" organized by the Human Rights Commissioner of Pakistan. The Centre distributed posters of the Universal Declaration to several human rights activists for display at commemorative meetings and exhibitions, and arranged extensive press coverage, including a half-hour broadcast by Radio Pakistan of a discussion on the human rights situation worldwide.

Lagos

62. In February 1994, the Director attended a ceremony organized by Human Rights Africa to present awards to individuals and organizations for outstanding service in the field. The United Nations was among those honoured. DPI human rights materials were distributed. Working with the theme "Act now for a just and stable world", UNIC Lagos organized a week-long exhibition of 15 artists to promote the core issues of the World Summit for Social Development as well as a special observance ceremony for Human Rights Day. The Secretary-General's message was read, and the keynote speech on "Social development and material poverty" was delivered by a former Nigerian Ambassador to Ethiopia and the OAU. In her remarks to the audience of 200, the Centre's Director highlighted the launch of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and the International Decade for the World's Indigenous People. DPI materials were distributed at the event.

Lomé

63. The Centre organized in cooperation with the Féderation togolaise and the Associations of UNESCO Clubs of Togo a national gathering of youth in Lomé. The theme of the event was "The rights of the child and family". The event was attended by the Minister of Human Rights and National Solidarity as well as representatives of the United Nations system. The event was fully covered by radio and television. According to a survey of 600 young Togolese, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the most popular document in the field of law. The Centre provided copies of the Declaration to all participants. A video on the Universal Declaration was then screened.

London

64. In the United Kingdom, the annual interfaith service organized by the United Nations Association of the United Kingdom and Amnesty International on 10 December marked not only Human Rights Day, but also launched the United Nations Year for Tolerance. Copies of the Secretary-General's message, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other materials were made available to the public. This year, the message of the Secretary-General was read by the officer-in-charge and the keynote address delivered by Rev. Eric Brown, Commissioner at the Commission on Racial Equality. The message was also distributed to the Centre's mailing list of over 1,000. A petition, presented to UNIC London by a group representing the Sikh community in the United Kingdom, was handed to the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street by a representative of UNA-UK on 9 December.

Moscow

65. UNIC translated the Secretary-General's message into Russian and distributed it widely to leading newspapers and broadcasting organizations. The Centre also organized a seminar in cooperation with the Russian NGO Educators for Peace and Understanding. The event was attended by human rights activists, journalists, members of the Presidential Commission on Human Rights, government officials and scholars. Information materials were distributed, and the film "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" was broadcast on Moscow City TV which reaches an audien e of 15 million viewers. The officer-in-charge delivered an opening statement to the Third International Seminar on Teaching Human Rights in the Schools, co-organized by UNIC Moscow, the Moscow International Foundation for Support to UNESCO, several government departments and the Moscow Research Centre for Human Rights; and to a group of Moscow University students at UNIC premises. The Centre distributed DPI materials, backgrounders and fact sheets related to human rights issues to participants. In June, UNIC Moscow participated in the third seminar on human rights organized by the International Movement for Teachers for Peace and Mutual Understanding and the Institute of Advanced Studies of Education Specialists of the Moscow region. The seminar was attended by human rights activists, scholars and government officials.

New Delhi

66. The Centre's Human Rights Day programme was hosted jointly with the Indian International Centre on 11 December and featured a performance of

Tappattam (a dance performance of rhythmic drums from Tamil Nadu). Guests of honour included the Chairman of the Indian National Human Rights Commission and a member of the Indian delegation to the Commission on Human Rights who spoke on human rights. The Secretary-General's message was distributed to print and electronic media and DPI materials were distributed to the audience. In addition, the 10 December issue of the Centre's newsletter covered human rights activities.

Ouagadougou

67. From 28-30 June 1994, the Centre organized a workshop on the promotion and protection of human rights and sponsored two local NGOs. The Centre was represented at a lecture given by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Ibrahima Fall. For Human Rights Day, the Secretary-General's message was read by the Director and broadcast during the midday and nightly news bulletins of national TV and radio stations. On Human Rights Day, UNIC Ouagadougou organized, in association with several NGOs, a public lecture on the theme "Les droits de l'homme dans l'Afrique ancienne: tradition et modernité". The lecture was delivered by the Minister of Justice and a leading historian and member of parliament. UNIC also organized an exhibit on the theme in cooperation with local NGOs and distributed more than 500 documents concerning human rights as well as social and economic issues.

Paris

68. UNIC Paris sent the message of the Secretary-General to 69 French NGOs and specialized newspapers. On 10 December, UNIC Paris participated in the international fair "Liberty Fest", organized by the Fondation pour les droits de l'homme in Paris, chaired by former Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar. Forty NGOs participated in the event. UNIC Paris distributed copies of the Secretary-General's message as well as various United Nations publications on human rights. On 9 and 10 December the Centre participated in a number of round table discussions on human rights issues. On 2 March the Centre's Director participated in a meeting organized by the NGO Civilisation internationale, delivering a statement on human rights and civilization before an audience of 60. On 1 June 1994, the Director was interviewed on Vatican Radio and responded to questions on the "Hot Line" for reporting human rights violations established by the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The next day, the Director participated in a breakfast debate organized by "Côté de la Réussite" for 200 journalists, students and NGOs.

Port of Spain

69. The Centre issued an information package for Human Rights Day containing the message of the Secretary-General, a backgrounder on the observance, and a press release on the launch of the International Decade for the World's Indigenous People.

Rio de Janeiro

70. The December issue of the Centre's newsletter, ONU em Foco, which is distributed to 750 individuals and institutions nationwide, was devoted to human rights issues. The lead story covered contemporary forms of slavery.

Brief notes on Human Rights Day, the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and the International Decade for the World's Indigenous People were included in the Centre's daily telexed news service which goes to 30 media outlets nationwide. The Centre's daily television show "As Naçoes Unidas" aired a series of features on human rights throughout the week. With the Centre's support, a classical music concert, including a ceremony in honour of the United Nations, was organized by the Lions Club on Human Rights Day.

Rome

71. On Human Rights Day, UNIC Rome participated in a special event, organized jointly with the mayor of Rome and with the collaboration of the Italian Committee for UNICEF and NGOs. The event focused on the launching of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. The ceremony was presided over by the mayor, who outlined the objectives of a project to be carried out in Italian schools on the Decade and the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The Secretary-General's message was read by the Director who made a brief statement underlining the importance of human rights education for children and young people. A film entitled "About UN Human Rights" was screened and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights read out during the ceremony. The Council of Rome issued 100,000 copies of a booklet containing the Italian translation of the Universal Declaration and the Convention on the Rights of the Child for distribution in the schools of Rome, as well as a questionnaire on human rights education to be completed by schoolchildren. About 200 people attended the ceremony which was covered by RAI-TV, TG3 at peak audience time, as well as by Italian and Vatican Radio.

72. On 12 December, UNIC Rome assisted UNICEF Geneva in organizing a press conference for the expert appointed by the Secretary-General to carry out the study on children in armed conflicts. The study, the first of its kind, seeks to demonstrate the need for effective measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of children who are victims of armed conflict and to stimulate greater international action in that regard.

73. During the year, UNIC Rome cooperated with UNESCO and NGOs in producing the World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy, and launched a series of seminars on the subject for high school students. A conference, held in Florence to observe the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was attended by the President of the Commission on Human Rights of the Italian Presidency. United Nations materials were distributed, including an Italian translation of DPI's backgrounder "Human Rights and the Family".

Santiago

74. Human Rights Day was observed in Chile at a ceremony organized jointly by the Chilean Commission on Human Rights, which is celebrating its sixteenth anniversary, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC read the Secretary-General's message. The Commission delivered various human rights awards to individuals who had carried out outstanding work in the field. UNIS issued a press release and coordinated press coverage of the event.

Santa Fe de Bogotá

75. On Human Rights Day, the Centre cooperated with the Andean Commission of Jurists in organizing a round table on "The situation of human rights in Colombia", which was attended by 500 people. Panellists included the Minister of Defence, the Ombudsman for Human Rights, and the President of the Andean Commission of Jurists. UNIC Santa Fe de Bogotá presented samples of DPI and United Nations publications from the Centre for Human Rights and documentation was distributed to all participants. Media coverage resulted in nine newspaper articles on the event. The Secretary-General's message was translated into Spanish and, along with a backgrounder on the observance of Human Rights Day, was issued as a press release to the national media, resulting in coverage by 10 radio stations, 5 television stations and 16 newspapers. In addition, UNIC provided assistance to radio broadcaster Henry Téllez in the production of a special human rights broadcast on Radio Nacional on 10 December. The Centre also published a journal and poster on the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The publication was provided to the Ombudsman's office and distributed to the media.

Sydney

76. In the second quarter of 1994, the officer-in-charge addressed an audience of 100 NGOs at an ICRC conference on human rights and humanitarian law, discussing United Nations mechanisms for human rights, and gave 4 interviews to Australian news media. This activity resulted in the establishment of closer liaison with law schools offering courses on human rights law. Copies of documentation and other materials were distributed.

Tokyo

77. UNIC Tokyo participated in the observance of "Human Rights Week". During the week UNIC Tokyo, in cooperation with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, organized an exhibition of children's drawings from 35 countries on the subject of the family. The Secretary-General's message was translated into Japanese and released to the press, government ministries, NGOs and individuals concerned with human rights issues.

Tunis

78. On 10 December, the Director attended a ceremony at the presidential palace to mark Human Rights Day, during which the President's 1994 Human Rights Prize was awarded. The Centre issued a press release which highlighted the development of human rights and the celebration of the Day and several newspaper editorials referred to the Universal Declaration and the Secretary-General's message, which was distributed to mass media, government officials and NGOs. National television and radio stations also provided coverage. The Centre made printed and audio-visual materials available to government ministries, cultural and youth organizations and academic institutions, and assisted the Ministry of Information in organizing an exhibition, attended by 2,000 people, on Human Rights Day.

Washington, D.C.

79. UNIC Washington distributed the Secretary-General's message to the media through the National Press Club and targeted key members of Congress with information highlighting the human rights work of the United Nations. A special letter commemorating Human Rights Day was sent to members of Congress along with selected reports of special rapporteurs, including those on the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, the Sudan, Iraq and Cuba. The report of the High Commissioner on Human Rights was also distributed with the Director's letter.

Windhoek

80. At the invitation of the Legal Assistance Centre, a human rights NGO, UNIC Windhoek delivered the Secretary-General's message at an event organized to commemorate Human Rights Day. Three hundred copies of the ABC: Teaching Human Rights were presented to the Director of the Legal Assistance Centre to supplement its legal education programme on women's and children's rights which is undertaken in all of Namibia's 13 regions. In addition, the Centre distributed 20 copies to the media and to the Ministry of Justice. UNIC produced Afrikaans and Oshiwambo language versions of the International Bill of Human Rights which were given to all human rights NGOs. The Centre prepared a press release for Human Rights Day, which included the Secretary-General's message, the General Assembly resolution launching the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, and a backgrounder on the General Assembly's proclamation of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education. The press release was widely distributed to the media, human rights NGOs and government ministries. Excerpts from the press releases were carried on NBC National Radio news bulletins.

Yaoundé

81. Extensive publicity was given to the message of the Secretary-General by the local media in Yaoundé. Read by the Acting Director, it was broadcast several times on 10 December on English radio; it was also broadcast on national television during French and bilingual news broadcasts and excerpts were carried by the Cameroon Tribune. The Centre organized a mini-exhibition of United Nations posters and pictures on human rights in the Centre's library from 9-16 December. Documents, notably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "The Question of Palestine", and "Mise hors la loi d'une abomination séculaire: la torture", as well as copies of the message of the Secretary-General, were distributed to visitors. Human rights documents were also distributed to the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedoms and other local NGOs dealing with human rights.

C. Offices of the United Nations

Almaty

82. Human Rights Day was observed with a lecture on the rights of refugees at the Institute of Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan, recently established by the President. The office has worked very closely with UNHCR and the Government for several months on the accession by Kazakhstan to the

1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Students and faculty were introduced to the aims of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and the idea that human rights, humanitarian law, democracy and the rule of law should be included as subjects of study at educational institutions throughout the country. The office arranged for the delivery of human rights documentation produced in Russian by the Centre for Human Rights. On 10 December, the office participated in a programme devoted to human rights protection at the Institute of Law as well as in the Second International Conference on Human Rights: Fundamental Human Rights and Grass-roots Systems for their Protection, held from 15-17 November in Almaty.

Asmara

83. Human Rights Week, 3-10 December, was observed in Eritrea beginning with a three-day seminar on civic education held by the Constitutional Commission of Eritrea (CCE). Four hundred participants representing the public from all provinces, social organizations and the armed forces participated. The seminar featured four lectures on constitutional themes: constitution and government, constitution and human rights, constitution and economic rights and constitution and democracy. On 7 December Eritrea celebrated International Children's Day in cooperation with UNICEF, Asmara University and local and international NGOs. One of three films provided by the office, "About the United Nations: Rights of the Child", was shown during the week.

84. The office organized a panel discussion at the Institute of Research and Development in Asmara in collaboration with the CCE. Panellists included a member of the Executive Committee of the CCE, a representative of the National Union of Women and the Chairman of the National Union of Eritrean Students. Booklets and documents pertaining to human rights were distributed to NGOs and Asmara University in order to assist them in celebrating Human Rights Day. TV Asmara announced Human Rights Day as the lead item in the news, while local radio broadcast a 10-minute programme about the Day in all 5 local languages. The three government newspapers carried items on the Day.

Minsk

85. The message of the Secretary-General was translated into Russian, disseminated to local media and delivered by the deputy head of the office. It was also included in the office bulletin distributed to governmental organizations, local media, educational institutions and scientific as well as international organizations in Belarus. On the eve of Human Rights Day, the Belarussian League for Human Rights, in cooperation with the office, published an issue of its newspaper Human Rights devoted to the observance of the Day. The newspaper regularly publishes human rights documents, conventions, declarations and other relevant materials provided by the office. Several Belarussian newspapers carried articles devoted to human rights. Regional newspapers also carried articles, and regional human rights NGOs organized a television round table devoted to human rights issues.

Tbilisi

86. The office translated the Secretary-General's message into Georgian and Russian and distributed it to Georgian media. On 10 December the main

channels of Georgian TV and radio broadcast the full text of the message. Georgian TV also broadcast several programmes dedicated to Human Rights Day, with the participation of the Chairman of the State Committee on Human Rights and Ethnic Relations and the representative of the Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights and Ethnic Minorities, who spoke on the situation of human rights in Georgia.

87. Throughout the year, the office established active links with relevant government bodies, NGOs and educational institutions in Georgia, regularly supplying them with all available information on the subject. The office also brought to the attention of the relevant commissions of parliament the need for Georgia to adhere to international conventions on human rights. As a result, and on the basis of documents supplied, the parliament adopted decisions concerning the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The office also brought complaints about violations of human rights in Georgia to the attention of appropriate government bodies, pointing out the need for investigating such cases and taking appropriate measures to remedy the situation.